

Message Text

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12

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 SAL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 FPC-01 STR-08

PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSR-01 /159 W

----- 006908

R 081550 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6391

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EIND, PBOR, NO SV

SUBJ: SPITZBERGEN CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: STATE 41019

1. AN EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED THE QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ARCTIC EXPERT VENNEMOE . VENNEMOE' S REACTION WAS THAT THE CLAIMS EXISITING ON OR PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 9, 1920 WERE CLAIMS TO LAND, OR TO MINERAL RIGHTS AS SUCH. THERE WERE VARIOUS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN EXISTENCE WHEN THE SPITZBERGEN TREATY WAS SIGNED WHICH WERE RECOGNIZED AS VALID UNDER THE PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN ARTICLE 6 AND THE ANNEX OF THE TREATY. BUT VENNEMOE DISTINGUISHED SUCH " TREATY CLAIMS" FROM SUBSEQUENTLY FILED " MINING CLAIMS". (COMMENT: UNDER ARTICLE 1(9) OF THE ANNEX, CONFIRMATION OF THE TITLE OF PRE-1920 CLAIMANTS TO LAND WAS MADE SUBJECT TO THE SUBSEQUENT MINING REGULATIONS-- I. E., THE 1925 MINING CODE FOR SPITZBERGEN. THE LATTER SEVERELY LIMITS THE LAND OWNER' S MINERAL RIGHTS.)

2. VENNEMOE NOTED THAT CLAIMS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE RIGHT TO EXPLORE AND/ OR EXPLOIT MINERAL DEPISOITS WERE NOT POSSIBLE UNDER NORWEGIAN LAW BEFORE THE PROMULGATION OF THE
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MINING CODE FOR SPITZBERGEN IN 1925. IN FACT, VENNEMOE
BELIEVES THE OLDEST GAS AND OIL CLAIMS DATE BACK NO
FURTHER THAN THE MID-1940' S.

3. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT AS DESIRED.
CROWE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OSLO00935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730323/aaaahibn.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 41019
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <01-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971113
Subject: SPITZBERGEN CONTINENTAL SHELF
TAGS: EIND, PBOR, NO, SV
To: L
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005